

KEESLER NEWS

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Develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

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<http://www.keesler.af.mil>

Busted ... for a good cause



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Master Sgt. Ken Oates, left, and Tech. Sgt. Ezra Khan, 81st Security Forces Squadron, lead away Col. Doug Hayner, 81st Training Wing vice commander, after handcuffing him during a staff meeting Monday. The action was part of the annual Santa Police fundraiser. For a price, "arrested" individuals or their units may bail them out.

Top 3 priorities for Air Force set by secretary, chief of staff

By Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — After 15 years of continuous engagement, the Air Force is evolving through persistent situation awareness, the secretary of the Air Force stated in a Letter to Airmen released Dec. 8.

"Our Air Force finds itself in an operating environment that requires us

to examine all mission areas, from platforms to personnel, for stresses, inefficiencies and strains that we must identify and correct," Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne wrote.

In the letter, the secretary states that Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley laid out a clear set of

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Air Force overhauls mission statement

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and continue to change almost daily.

With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders have released a new mission statement that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

"Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges," Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wrote in a joint Letter to Airmen. "Our mission is our guiding compass, and now more than ever we need it to be clear and precise."

The mission statement defines the "where and what" the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis:

"The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests — to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace."

The statement includes two new concepts, "sovereign options" and "cyberspace," which the secretary and chief defined.

They said having sovereign options is the essence of being a superpower.

"Our task is to provide the president, the combatant commanders, and our nation with an array of options ... options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy's defenses," they said. "With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world."

The term cyberspace includes network secu-

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COMMENTARY

Take a break, AETC family; you certainly deserve one

By Gen. William Looney III

AETC commander

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The holidays are an important time to reflect on the past year and give thanks for our families, our friends and the opportunity to serve the American people in the greatest air and space force the world has ever known.

This year, the Airmen of the First Command were presented with many challenges: recruiting, training and educating our future force; preparing for and responding to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and engaging in the global war on terror. You met each of these challenges with the integrity, excellence and selfless service that are the hallmarks of our command.

But we all know without the support of our families, we wouldn't be where we are today — as individuals or as a team. We certainly wouldn't have been able to achieve this year's tremendous successes. That's why I encourage you to take a break from the speed of everyday life during this holiday season to enjoy time with the people who are most important to you.

As you reflect on this past year, remember the Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines who are fighting in the global war on terror.

Remember in your prayers and in your actions families who are separated during the holidays ... this is a tough time for them and they need our support. Remember those Americans who've lost loved ones in this struggle ... because while the rest of our citizens enjoy this season of celebration, they bear an especially heavy burden. These families need to know their loved ones died serving a noble cause.

Each generation of Americans has answered the call to sacrifice for the values we cherish, and this generation is no different. We're fighting the global war on terror for our children and our children's children. Thanks to those who've paid the ultimate price — and those who continue the fight — our families will enjoy the blessings of liberty for years to come.

Still others faced heart-wrenching losses this year, and we must remember them. For those who are still recovering from this unprecedented hurricane season, know that the Air Force is behind you every step of the way. Nothing is more important than family — and you're a part of ours. You can continue to rely on us.

Finally, to all our Airmen and their families: Be safe.

If just one piece of a jigsaw puzzle is missing, your eyes are immediately drawn to the absent part. The same principle applies to our command. We're an interdependent team, and each of you is vital to our success. When even one piece of the Air Education and Training Command puzzle is missing, we all feel it. Use common sense and personal risk management while traveling and enjoying holiday activities.

Savor the holidays, and come back whole, healthy, refreshed and fully prepared to do your part to make 2006 a benchmark year for the First Command.

My wife, Marilyn, and I wish you a wondrous holiday season and we wish you health, happiness and success in 2006 as we continue to develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow.

ACTION LINE ... 377-4357

By Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso

81st Training Wing commander

First, try to work concerns through the proper chain of command. When you've exhausted this recourse, turn to the commander's action line for assistance.

We welcome any suggestions to help make this a more valuable and useful tool. You may call the commander's action line at 377-4357, write to Commander's Action Line, 81 TRW/PA, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2603, e-mail 81 TRW Commander's Action Line (on-base) or commanders.line@keesler.af.mil (off-base). For a personal response, include your name, address and phone number.

Items of general interest may appear in this column.

Thumbs up, communicators

Comment — Staff Sgt. Monica Jones provides outstanding customer service whenever we call for telephone support.

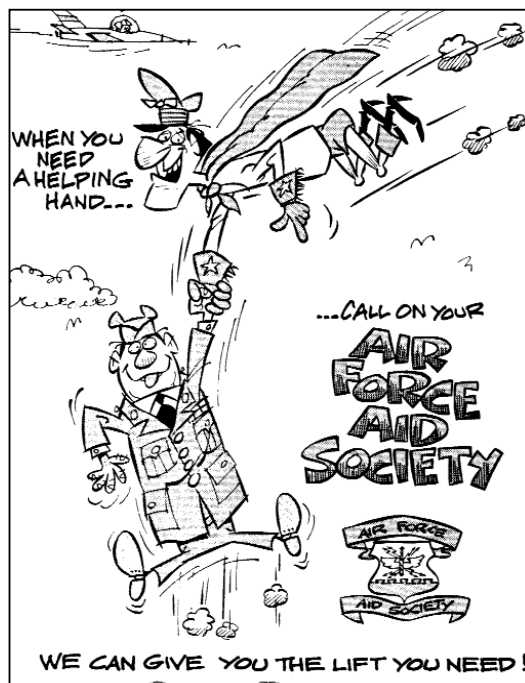
Due to the education office's move to old Cody Hall from the Sablich Center, I've called the customer help desk several times regarding telephone issues. Sergeant Jones is always very professional and pleasant. She sets the standard for first-rate customer service.

The 81st Communications Squadron should be proud that its telephone help desk provides competent and courteous customer support.

Telecommunications and computer support by the 81st CS is also superior.

Response — Thank you for taking the time to let us know about your recent customer service experience with the 81st CS.

Customer service skills are highly valued, so we're glad to see your expectations were exceeded.



TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Staff Sgt. Stephen Hicks dons the "red man suit" so Tech. Sgt. Thomas Richey can practice baton strikes as Sergeant Patterson evaluates his moves. They're assigned to the 81st SFS.

Cops learn baton techniques

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Batons aren't just tools for symphony conductors and majorettes — law enforcers use them, too.

Dec. 6, 28 members of the 81st Security Forces Squadron were involved in four hours of training on the use of a specialized baton used as a defense impact weapon on combative subjects.

The alloy-steel baton weighs about 2 pounds. The 9-inch baton expands to 26 inches when fully extended.

"The first hour of training is a lecture covering the basics of the baton — its components, when and where to strike, care and maintenance, and the different strikes available," said Staff Sgt. Brian Patterson, one of the instructors.

After the classroom session, students get an opportunity to practice all of the different strikes.

"At first, they strike bags using foam batons," Sergeant Patterson explained. "Then they're able to use the real batons for about two hours. There's a 20-question written



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Tech. Sgt. Paul Brown protects himself with a training bag while Staff Sgt. Lakeshia Smiley practices a strike. They're members of the 81st SFS.

test that they must pass with an 80 percent score."

The last step is the practical evaluation, in which an individual dons a padded protective "red man suit."

"Students each go through two one-minute rounds — the first is practice, the second is the evaluation," Sergeant Patterson said. "I evaluate them on proper strikes, voice commands, balance and overall effectiveness with the baton."

After completing the training, the security forces members are certified to carry the baton while on duty.

"The training incorporates drills which simulate the stress of street encounters," Sergeant Patterson pointed out. "Now our students have a basic understanding of the conditions in which the baton may be used, justification for use and how to document these actions."

'Brave Defender' trains top cops for deployment

By Senior Airman Mike Meares

96th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

EGLIN Air Force Base, Fla. — A new Air Force Materiel Command program helps train security forces leaders for deployment to combat zones.

"Brave Defender," developed by the command's Security Forces Regional Training Center, prepares security forces commanders and senior enlisted leaders for success in the field.

"This course is designed to give security forces leadership the decision-making tools and up-to-date techniques needed to succeed in a fluid, fast-paced combat environment," said Tech. Sgt. Howard Stahl, 96th Ground Combat Training Squadron headquarters track course chief.

The training provides ground combat skills training for AFMC and Air Force Special Operations Command security forces Airmen. Thirty security forces Airmen provide the training.

When they arrive, trainees split up into five distinctive tracks: headquar-

ters, leadership, force protection technology, communications specialist and designated marksman.

The headquarters track, one of the newest tracks, is for the commander, first sergeant, operations officer and superintendent.

"Any kind of 'just in time' training is important," said Lt. Col. Paul Markley, the AFMC headquarters individual mobilization augmentee to the director of security forces. "Brave Defender in particular is beneficial because it is very relevant to the myriad of missions downrange."

At the beginning of any class, headquarters track students begin training two days before the rest of the class. They receive instructions on their duties and responsibilities and the practical application on developing a student reception plan. This plan encompasses everything from shower and laundry schedules, bed down and quarters assignments to meal schedules.

The Airmen also develop a briefing

that entails all the do's and don'ts at Brave Defender, and present the initial intelligence background for training.

"They prepare the headquarters leadership with the skills necessary to understand and face a new threat when we hit the ground downrange," Colonel Markley said. "The way they structured the (course) is valuable training that mirrors situations we'll likely face."

Over a 10-day period, the headquarters students receive instruction through a series of classes and guest speakers. The courses include decision support tools, support weapons, base sectoring, integrated base defense and operations orders. Students also receive training in their specific staff functions and roles, including orders and reports, counterattacks, preparation of the battle space and logistics.

The headquarters students receive briefings on current friendly and enemy activities in their area of operations and on the capabilities their Airmen bring to the fight. During the

last week of the course, the students lead their troops during an intense field training exercise that is designed to challenge both their mental and physical capabilities.

"This class has changed the mindset of how we think of our enemy," said Chief Master Sgt. Ken Sowinski, the command's IMA to the security forces manager. "We are fighting them in their backyard. They know it and are very adaptable to it."

Once Airmen have gone through the necessary training in the classroom and field, they apply what they learned in a joint exercise. The field training exercise tests the students' courage in an austere environment. They use what they learned during the previous 10 days.

To provide realism, the exercise covers the entire area of operation. This requires students to look beyond the tactical base perimeter and factor in the entire battle space.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Grants increase

General Henry H. Arnold Education Grants have been increased to \$2,000 by the Air Force Aid Society.

Children of active duty, retirees, Title 10 reservists on extended active duty, Title 32 performing full-time active duty and deceased Air Force members are eligible to apply. Spouses of active duty, Title 10 reservists residing and attending school in the continental United States and widows and widowers of active duty and retirees.

Applications are available at the family support center, Room 118, old Cody Hall. The application deadline is March 10.

Embry-Riddle

Registration for the Embry-Riddle University spring term is under way.

Classes begin Jan. 9.

Fields of study include financial accounting, marketing, international business and air transportation.

For more information or to register, call 377-4271, or visit Room 210, old Cody Hall.

Testing resumes

Testing has resumed for all programs administered by the education office.

Make appointments in Room 212, old Cody Hall or call 377-2323 or 2171.

Testing is in Room 118, Airman Leadership School, 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

Civilian tuition aid

College tuition assistance is available for permanent civil service employees at Keesler.

Courses must be mission (job) related and through accredited schools.

For more information, call or visit the education office, 377-2323, Room 212, old Cody Hall.

CCAF online

Visit the Air Force Virtual Education Center, <https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod>, to create My-AFVEC accounts to access online customer service tools.

With the tools, people can request Community College of the Air Force transcripts,

track receipt of civilian transcripts, view degree progress reports and check if a course counts toward a CCAF degree.

Physician assistants

Phase I physician assistant training classes begin in January, April and August 2007.

Completed applications must be sent by military personnel flights and arrive by Jan. 27 at HQ AFPC/DPAMW, 550 C Street West, Suite 27, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4729.

For more information, call the military personnel flight or education office or visit <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/medical/BSC/Education/PAapplication.htm>.

Virtual education

The Air Force Virtual Education Center has been transferred to the Air Force Portal.

To access AFVEC, use the AFVEC URL, <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>, or go directly to the Air Force Portal, <https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod/>. Use your Air Force Portal user identification and password to log on.

First-time users are prompted to re-register some of their profile information and then are taken directly into their AFVEC profile.

Troops to Teachers

For information on Mississippi Troops to Teachers, call Chris Carey, 1-800-MISS-TEACH.

Officer records

For officers to update their academic records, the Air Force Institute of Technology requires an official transcript sent to this address:

AFIT/RRE, 2950 P St., Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433-7765.

Tuition aid online

Air Force members can request tuition assistance online.

Members can accomplish this request from their workstation through the Air Force Virtual Education Center.

AFVEC may be accessed through the Web site, <https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod>, or through the Air Force Portal using the portal's reduced sign-on technology. New My AFVEC users are required to create an account.

Upon registration, select the "Request TA" option. A PowerPoint tutorial in this section provides instructions on processing online applications.

It's important to know and enter basic course registration information in the request.

Enlisted-to-AFIT

WASHINGTON — The Air Force Institute of Technology offers noncommissioned officers a chance to earn an advanced science, engineering or management degree.

These onsite AFIT programs are available at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

For more information, visit <https://afvec.langley.af.mil/afvec/> or e-mail robert.hale@pentagon.af.mil.

Bypass testing

Up to 30 hours of college bypass testing credit can be used to complete a 64-hour Community College of the Air Force degree.

For more information, call 377-0090.

GI Bill benefits

Montgomery GI Bill benefits may be used in conjunction with tuition assistance.

Tuition assistance covers 100 percent of tuition and fees.

For more information, call the education office, 377-7059.

LOAC training

Military personnel are required to satisfactorily complete Law of Armed Conflict training every 15 months.

Online training is at <http://development/81trss/ancillary/training.htm>, and click on the flash or text versions of the training. The system asks for your first and last names, rank, organization and office symbol.

After reviewing the material, take a 10-question quiz. A score of 70 is required. After training, print a dated certificate. Keep a copy and give one to your unit deployment manager, who notifies the legal office.

USM degree

The University of Southern Mississippi-Keesler offers a degree in technical occupational education.

For more information, call 377-2309.

NEWS AND FEATURES

Timber!

Brian Darr, an urban forester, surveys a tree on Meadows Drive. Armed with a global positioning system in his backpack, he's documenting the condition of trees on base through early January. Mr. Darr owns Southern Urban Forestry Associates, North Port, Ala.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Spouse survey Responses crucial for family programs

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense officials want to make sure military spouses know it's important for them to complete the 30-minute online survey they received in the mail last month.

The new Defense Department survey asks their views as defense planners shape family programs to meet their needs and interests, a top Pentagon family policy official said.

Nearly 74,000 military spouses have been asked to participate in two new surveys, one directed at active-duty families and one for National Guard and Reserve families, said John Molino, deputy undersecretary for military and family policy.

The survey group was selected at random to provide a cross section of all military families, Mr. Molino said. The survey period runs through late January.

The survey responses are confidential and are instrumental in determining how DOD directs its resources to family programs in the future, he said.

"Participation in this survey will directly influence policy," he said. "So it is very important that the people who have been contacted and invited to participate respond."

This, Mr. Molino said, gives the department a full cross section of responses to using in tai-

"Participation in this survey directly influences policy ... it's very important that the people who have been contacted and invited to participate respond."

— Mr. Molino

loring its family programs.

"There's always competition for limited resources; we want to make sure we spend our money smartly in the future," he said.

"The survey is an opportunity for military spouses ... to be sitting around the table with us, to be giving us their input so that we can make smart decisions on how to spend these monies and these resources in the future.

"We can't really do it smart without them," Mr. Molino said.

The last spouse survey in 1999 underscored the need for more and better child-care facilities, particularly on bases, and interest in enhanced education benefits, he said. Officials have worked to introduce improvements in both areas, he said.

Mr. Molino said he's hoping spouses asked to participate in the 2005 survey weigh in with their views to help identify gaps and direct programs to fill them, particularly in light of changes in the military since the last survey.

The new survey, for example, focuses more on deployment issues and challenges they present families, he said.

"We think it is time, as we look ahead, that we ask today's military families what's important to them (and) what's relevant to (them), so we can better plan and better spend the resources that we will spend in the future" on programs to meet their needs, he said.

Family programs have become increasingly important within the military, Mr. Molino said. More than half of today's service members are married.

Family programs are a big factor in retention, too, because families satisfied with military life are far less likely leave the military, he said.

"Families are a key," Mr. Molino said. "The decision to join the military may be an individual decision, but the decision to stay in the military is a family decision."

IN THE NEWS

Airman sentenced on drug charges

AETC News Service

TYNDALL Air Force Base, Fla. — Senior Airman Philip Jones, 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was convicted of two specifications of wrongful use of prescription drugs at a special court-martial Nov. 4.

The conviction, the fifth at Tyndall this year for illegal drug use, was the first involving the abuse of prescription medication.

Airman Jones pleaded guilty to using Oxycodone, a powerful painkiller, for which he didn't hold a valid prescription. He also admitted using Methadone, which is commonly used to wean heroin addicts from their addictions, which was obtained from an illicit source.

Airman Jones tested positive for the two drugs on separate urinalyses conducted during two consecutive weeks.

He was sentenced to three months confinement, reduction to airman basic and a bad conduct discharge.

NCO gets 17 years confinement

Air Force Print News

ELMENDORF Air Force Base, Alaska — A general court-martial sentenced a noncommissioned officer to 17 years confinement after finding him guilty of rape, sodomy and striking a child.

A military judge also sentenced Tech. Sgt. Larry Pauly to a dishonorable discharge and reduction to airman basic.

Sergeant Pauly, 3rd Maintenance Operations Squadron, chose a trial by judge alone.

Base officials charged the former sergeant with violating four articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. They included Article 120, rape of a child under 16 years old; two counts of Article 125, sodomy with a child under 12 years old; Article 128, striking a child under 16 years old; and two counts of Article 134, indecent acts with a child under 16 years old.

The judge found him guilty of violating articles 120, 125 and 128 and not guilty of violating Article 134.

Major pleads guilty to cocaine use

Air Force Print News

WRIGHT-PATTERSON Air Force Base, Ohio — An officer at the Air Force Institute of Technology pleaded guilty to possession and use of cocaine in a general court-martial Nov. 14-15.

Maj. John Foresman was sentenced by a panel of officers to four months confinement, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and dismissal.

Last Keesler News of 2005

By contract, the Keesler News doesn't publish the weeks in which the Christmas and New Year's holidays fall.

The last Keesler News of 2005 is published Dec. 22.

The first issue of 2006 is published Jan. 12.

The newspaper office is minimally staffed on work days between Dec. 26-30 and Jan. 2-6.



New look in guards at gates to Keesler

Robert Brannon of Gulfport checks the identification card of a civilian entering the base through the Meadows Drive Gate. Mr. Brannon is one of 25 gate guards employed by contractor Akal Security to staff base gates. The guards, who wear blue uniforms, began providing this service Dec. 2. Initially, they're accompanied by members of the 81st Security Forces Squadron.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Mission,

from Page 1

... rity, data transmission and the sharing of information.

"We have quite a few of our Airmen dedicated to cyberspace ... from security awareness, making sure the networks can't be penetrated, as well as figuring out counter-

measures," Secretary Wynne said. "The Air Force is a natural leader in the cyber world and we thought it would be best to recognize that talent."

Adversaries of the United States will use any method or venue necessary to contest America, and it's an Airman's calling to dominate air, space and cyberspace, the leaders said.

"If we can decisively and consistently control these

commons, then we will deter countless conflicts," they said. "If our enemies underestimate our resolve, then we will fly, fight, and destroy them."

Using past air power pioneers as examples of understanding the mission, they said,

"The Air Force's mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do."

Priorities,

from Page 1

priorities. These are winning the global war on terrorism, recapitalizing the Air Force and providing Airmen the skills and training they need.

"We are attacking this from two directions; first, by expanding the use of Lean concepts," the letter states.

Lean concepts are tools businesses use to decrease waste, improve quality and

maximize effectiveness within their organization.

Secretary Wynne wrote the application of such concepts within the service would balance "the productivity of our people and the increased capability of our systems ... against the inherent cost."

The second course of attack is to provide tools to commanders and supervisors to monitor and control resources across the Air Force.

"We must analyze all of our operations to look for opportunities to eliminate waste in

terms of time and materials, while increasing productivity and continuing to challenge ourselves," the secretary wrote.

Though change is never easy, Secretary Wynne vowed to remain committed to the total force. On behalf of all senior leaders, he praised the work Airmen are doing around the globe.

"We are reminded daily of your commitment to our first priority — winning the war," the secretary wrote.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Editor's note: This column is a service of the Keesler News. Contributors include the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and the 81st Mission Support Squadron's military and civilian personnel flights.

Expansion of SGLI benefits

Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO — Service members were enrolled in a new program Dec. 1 that expands benefits provided through Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

Force shaping

For information on force shaping, visit the Air Force Personnel Center Force shaping Web site, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape.htm>, or call the AFPC contact center, 1-800-616-3775.

Verifying deployment credit

For information on verifying deployment credit, call the Air Force Personnel Center's field activities office, DSN 665-2671 or commercial 1-210-565-2671.

Sexual harassment hotline

The Air Force wants military and civilian employees to remain aware of the service's sexual harassment hotline.

AFPC operates the hotline to receive sexual harassment and other forms of discrimination inquiries. The numbers are 1-800-558-1404, DSN 665-2949, or commercial 1-210-565-2949.

An AFPC call center representative answers each call to the hotline. Callers with a sexual harassment or discrimination concern are forwarded to a qualified military equal opportunity counselor.

Counselors ensure callers understand the avenues available to them and complaints are channeled to the proper authority. Counselors take calls during normal duty hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CDT. After normal duty hours, voice mail is available to leave messages for emergencies.

Emergency contacts for civilians

The emergency management data system is a Web-based method for civilians to input personal emergency contact information.

For more information or to register, visit <https://ww2.afpc.randolph.af.mil/emds/default.htm>.

Civilian career information

Air Force civilians can access the virtual Civilian Career Brief through the AFPC secure Web site, <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecure/default.asp>.

Once on the AFPC secure Web site, select "Civ Career Brief" from the button menu.

New CCB users need to establish an account.

Reset passwords online

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — People who forget their passwords to personnel center customer service Web applications like the virtual Military Personnel Flight and Civilian Employment Application can reset a password on their own within seconds online.

First-time users need basic personal information, including civilian service computation date, or pay date for military. Common access card users can create an account using the security "certificates" on the card and the card reader.

To access the vMPF or other online personnel resources, visit <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>.

Medical appointments available

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The Keesler Medical Center appointment line is operational.

Tricare Prime beneficiaries may call 1-800-700-8603 to book appointments and leave telephone consults for their primary care managers or request authorizations for any non-emergency services. The medical center doesn't have the capability to accept "space-available" Tricare Standard and Extra beneficiaries.

The appointment line is open for all beneficiaries 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to noon Sunday. Active-duty personnel may begin calling at 5 a.m. Monday-Friday.

To access care on the first floor of the medical center, enter through the "A Tower" at the top of the steps leading from Fisher Street. Signs directing patients to the respective clinics are posted along the route from the entrance to the clinic areas. The security staff is also available to provide directions.

Clinic hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. working Fridays. The family practice, internal medicine and pediatric clinics see patients 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays.

The clinical laboratory is in its medical center location. The lab's phlebotomy station is open in the main lab and routine blood testing is provided for Tricare Prime patients seen at the medical center.

The blood donor center is open. To arrange to donate blood, call 377-9324.

Radiology is in the radiology department. Provided are routine radiographs, computerized tomography and ultrasounds for Tricare Prime patients seen at the medical center.

The immunization clinic in the former urology clinic provides all inoculations to active duty, retirees and dependents. Flu shots are available, but allergy services aren't.

The temporary pharmacy is in the medical photo/oral surgery area. Hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. For remaining refills from on-base prescriptions, call 377-6360. Pick up refills about four duty days later at the temporary pharmacy distribution area in Building 5 of the Biloxi Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Veterans Boulevard, just off Pass Road. To renew prescriptions, see your primary care manager or another Tricare network provider. The pharmacy is unable to fill prescriptions from off-base providers.

The first aid station is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. Ambulance coverage for Keesler is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the on-base 911 line. Patients are taken directly to off-base medical facilities. For emergencies, go to the nearest coast emergency room. Active-duty sick call at the first aid station is scheduled through the central appointment line. The first aid station treats only new acute health care problems.

Internal medicine on the first floor sees active duty, dependents and Tricare Prime enrollees. Services are acute medical care, limited evaluation and treatment of chronic medical illnesses, medical consultation and referral for select subspecialty services.

The pediatric clinic in the former oncology/hematology clinic area provides scheduled acute medical care for children, well baby/child visits, routine appointments, Q Code exams, and exceptional family member program and special needs family paperwork. For appointments, use the Tricare appointment line. A child psychologist and social worker are available. Appointments are by PCM referral.

Women's health in the former general surgery clinic, next to the new flight medicine clinic, provides routine women's health care to active duty, dependents and Tricare Prime enrollees. Other patients are seen on a space-available basis. Services are general gynecological problems, annual (pap smear) exams, birth control and follow-up of abnormal paps (dysplasia). No obstetrical services are available. The clinic can initiate profiles for pregnant active-duty patients. Eligible patients call 377-6920 for appointments for routine annual exams. Call the appointment line for all others.

Flight medicine in the surgical specialties clinic furnishes walk-in acute care, duties-not-involved-in-flying paperwork, profiles and physical health assessments. Call 377-6668.

General surgery and orthopedics share the former orthopedic clinic. Surgery is available by primary care manager consult only.

Medical records are in the Wylie Auditorium. Original records are maintained by the medical center. For copies, complete a request form at the outpatient record's customer service desk. Allow five to seven days for copies.

Endocrine services are available by appointment only in the internal medicine clinic. Call 377-6665 or the Tricare appointment line.

New dermatology patients are seen by referral only. Established patients may be seen by calling 377-1673 or the appointment line.

Mental health flight elements — life skills, Family advocacy/exceptional family member program and alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment — services remain in the dental clinic. They're projected to move from Suite A to Suites H and J (please call to verify). Patients may use the entrance at the west end of the building. Call 377-7006 or 6216.

The Triangle clinic, Levittow Training Support Facility, sees only non-prior service students.

Services at the dental clinic include routine care, cleanings and routine outpatient oral surgery for active-duty members only. Dental emergencies for all patients are seen through dental sick call. Call 377-4510 for appointments.

Physical and occupational therapy see patients at the health and wellness center. Physical therapy sees active duty only; occupational therapy sees active duty, retirees and adult dependents. Services include assessment and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders such as upper and lower extremity dysfunction and neck and back pain. Treatment is limited to gym and home exercise programs, heat, ice and ultrasound modalities. Call 377-1886 for physical therapy and 377-6264 for occupational therapy.

For the director of customer relations, call 377-9498.

Caring quilters keep Keesler families warm

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

A warm quilt conjures up feelings of comfort and well-being.

That's what quilters had in mind with their efforts to send quilts to Keesler for families who lost homes and possessions when Hurricane Katrina struck south Mississippi Aug. 29.

An avid Keesler quilter, Teresa Ess, volunteered to coordinate distribution of the quilts at Keesler.

"I'm a civilian employee, military spouse and quilter, so this is a pet project for me," explained Ms. Ess, computer systems administrator for the 81st Training Wing staff agencies. Her husband is Maj. Rich Ess from the wing's inspector general office.

Quilting groups in Montana and Texas contacted the family support center and public affairs to start the ball rolling.

"I expect to receive more than 300 quilts over the next few months," Ms. Ess said. "The American Quilter Society is also shipping quilts here that have been donated from around the world."

Quilts are being distributed to those who registered on the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund database and indicated a total loss of personal property.

"I know a lot of people didn't register, so I'm also asking for input from commanders and staff agency chiefs," she added.

Priority is being given to members of organizations who were required to work during the crisis.

Here's a list of other assistance sources.

Air Force Aid Society

Hurricane Katrina assistance requests are accepted at the family support center, Room 118, old Cody Hall.

Air Force active-duty members, retirees, widows of Air Force retirees, and Army retirees and their widows must complete the entire application and provide supporting documentation.

Checks are written to the person or company providing the repair or service. Requests are decided on a case-by-case basis, and the customer is asked



Ms. Ess sorts quilts in the wing headquarters building.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

to provide supporting documentation, such as written estimates for tree removal, home repairs and proof of insurance deductibles.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cartier, 377-2593.

AAFES

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is waiving interest and suspending monthly payments for an unspecified period to Exchange Credit Program cardholders displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Credit limit increases of up to \$500 are offered on accounts in good standing.

For more information or to update contact information, call 1-877-991-7827 or visit <http://www.aafes.com>.

BAH

Base housing residents who received basic assistance for housing after Hurricane Katrina and have returned to a habitable unit need to stop by the base housing office in Chapel One east of the dental clinic to stop their BAH.

Residents should check their leave and earnings statements to verify they aren't receiving BAH anymore.

Civilian assistance

The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund Emergency Assistance Program

may provide assistance to federal civilian employees affected by Hurricane Katrina.

For more information, call all Sheila Noel, 377-7973, or go to <http://www.feea.org/emergency.shtml>.

Civilian employees and their families are eligible for six free post-hurricane counseling sessions.

For more information, call Larry Williams, 377-4638.

Civilian employees may donate unused annual leave to other employees adversely affected by the hurricane.

Up to 104 hours of leave can be donated, but it can't be given to a specific person. Submit an Office of Personnel Management Form 1638 through the civilian personnel flight.

Diploma replacement

To replace Community College of the Air Force or professional military education diplomas lost or damaged due to the hurricane, call the education office, 377-2171.

Extended child care

Military and civilians who are eligible for on-base day care and work more than 50 hours a week are eligible for free or subsidized child care under the Air Force's extended duty child care program.

For more information, call 377-3189 or 5935.

Government travel card

The government travel card is for official travel expenses while in a travel status.

Dependents aren't authorized to use their members' card. They can get advances at the nearest base to the "safe haven" location. If there's no base nearby, work through the finance office at Keesler for advances or accruals.

The 90-day grace period for payment of GTC accounts began Sept. 23.

People who used GTCs for prepaid transactions that weren't used as a result of Hurricane Katrina can dispute the charge for credit.

Before filing a dispute, try to contact the merchant to see if charges can be credited to the account. If that isn't possible, submit the dispute form found at <https://www.gcsuthd.bankofamerica.com/forms/maintenance.asp>. Use reason code 10 for "other" and use your own words to reference Hurricane Katrina. To fax the form, call 1-888-678-6046.

Katrina relief fund

The Keesler Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund a central location for money donated by other bases and sources.

To apply for assistance, visit Keesler's secure Web site, <https://www.mil.keesler>.



Both sides of the coin feature different designs. Art for the patch is similar to the coin.

Coins, patches raise funds

Operation Dragon Comeback coins and patches are being sold to benefit Keesler's Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

The project originated with the 81st Training Support Squadron and has evolved into a base-wide effort.

Prices are \$7 for coins and \$5 for patches.

They're available from Tech. Sgts. Eric Alvarez, 377-0872, and Anthony Bellocq, 377-9996.

af.mil and click on the red Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund icon on the right side of the screen. The brief application asks for personal contact information, rank, unit and an assessment of personal loss and insurance coverage.

All military and civilian members should complete the form, whether they want to receive financial donations or not, because responses will be used as historical data to determine the actual number of Keesler people who had losses and the extent of their losses.

For more information, call Maj. Teresa Roberts or Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cartier, 377-2179.

Retirees, annuitants

Military retirees and annuitants who've relocated or changed banking information, call 1-800-321-1080, 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. weekdays. They can also use myPay to update infor-

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mation; call 1-800-390-2348. Changes to mailing and banking information can be sent by fax to 1-800-469-6559, with "Hurricane Katrina" at the top of the page and a contact phone number listed.

Safe haven extension

The recent extension to the safe haven per diem rates payable to uniformed members' dependents now covers Keesler families for 120 days, or through Dec. 26.

Reimbursement rates are 100 percent for dependents 12 and older and 50 percent for those under 12.

Lodging receipts are required for safe haven per diem reimbursement.

Reimbursement for lodging is limited to the actual cost not to exceed the authorized amount.

Receipts aren't required for the meals and incidentals expense that's reimbursed as a flat amount.

SGLI

The Defense Department extended the deadline for reducing or declining increased Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage for service members affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Sept. 1, eligible members were automatically insured for the maximum coverage of \$400,000.

These changes don't affect coverage under Family SGLI, which continues under previously existing elections.

Those who wish to keep the \$400,000 coverage with the same beneficiary designations don't need to take any action. To decline or reduce coverage, members must complete a new SGLV 8286 at <http://www.insurance.va.gov> indicating the amount of coverage desired.

Uniform replacement

The 81st Supply Squadron is issuing battle dress uniform items to replace those damaged or worn out during post-Katrina recovery operations.

They're issued 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7:30 to 2 p.m. working Fridays in Room 125B, Taylor Logistics Building.

Toys roll in from Laughlin, Hurlburt Field

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Christmas is going to be a little brighter for some Keesler youngsters after 150 gifts were delivered Friday by a delegation from Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

"Although this started as a chapel project, it developed into a base-wide effort," said Pete Gorczok, parish coordinator at Laughlin. "Chaplain (Capt.) Ken Fisher was deployed from Laughlin to Keesler right after Hurricane Katrina and was deeply aware of the base's needs. The toy collection project was suggested by Farah Gibb, president of our Protestant Women of the Chapel, who got the ball rolling."

"Chief Master Sgt. Ted Pilihos, our command chief, has family in south Mississippi who lost their home and he was instrumental in getting our First Sergeants Council involved," he continued. "Then the first sergeants

at Hurlburt Field (Fla.) joined in.

"We had three Angel Trees — one at each of our two chapels and another at the base exchange," Mr. Gorczok added. "We had 200 hand-decorated angel ornaments, 100 for Laughlin children and 100 for Keesler children. The first sergeants at Hurlburt Field collected about 50 toys."

Chaplain Fisher, Chief Pilihos, Mr. Gorczok and Ms. Gibb were part of the Laughlin group that transported the toys to Keesler. As part of their visit, they toured nearby areas devastated by the hurricane.

"Lots of people have worked really hard on this," Chaplain Fisher said. "It's great to see the Air Force family work together to support each other in times of tragedy. Events like this help solidify why serving our nation and one another is such an awesome privilege and opportunity."



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Chaplain Fisher, left, presents gifts to Master Sgt. Nicole Pearson, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, and her 1-year-old daughter, Olivia.

Katrina recovery includes coping strategies

By Capt. Celina Guisinger

81st Medical Operations Squadron

As life settles down following Hurricane Katrina, you may find yourself drifting from a state of shock or numbness to having more of an emotional response to the aftermath of the hurricane and the recovery process.

Emotional responses after a traumatic event may be intense and sometimes unpredictable. Individuals may have repeated and vivid memories of the event with physical symptoms such as increased heart rate or sweating. Decision-making may become more difficult, and sleeping and eating patterns may become disrupted.

Anniversaries or reminders of the hurricane may trigger upsetting feelings or memories. Interpersonal conflicts, withdrawing from others or avoiding usual activities may occur. Pre-existing medical conditions may worsen in response to stress or new physical symptoms may appear, such as headaches, chest pain, and nausea.

External factors may affect how a person copes or adapts to life changes. Those who experienced a near threat to life or substantial property loss from the storm may take longer to recover. Healing may take longer

for those who had other significant stress before or after the storm. How well someone coped with stress in the past, life stability and support system may also affect the coping process.

During this difficult time:

Have patience with yourself and others.

Accept feelings as normal reactions to a traumatic event.

Share thoughts and feelings and listen to others.

Seek support from a listening, caring support system.

Take time to experience and express your feelings

Avoid taking on additional stress.

Maintain a healthy diet and adequate rest and exercise.

Establish or reestablish daily routines.

Avoid making major life decisions until you're feeling more emotionally stable.

Volunteering helps healing during the recovery.

Limit alcohol consumption.

Limit exposure to upsetting media coverage.

Spend time with others; have fun and relax.

Seek medical attention if you experience new or worsened medical symptoms in response to current stresses.

Children are coping with the disaster,

too. Research indicates children show improved coping over time, but can still feel emotionally impacted up to a year or more after a traumatic event. Common reactions include general fears, regressive behavior, misbehavior, decline in school performance, depression or withdrawal from others.

Parents and caregivers can lessen emotional impact on their children and provide an improved sense of stability by:

Spending more quality time spent with children.

Engaging in distracting and pleasant family activities.

Letting children know it's OK to talk about their thoughts and feelings.

Listening to them and answer their questions.

Keeping regular daily schedules and routines.

Other support includes talking to a chaplain or a mental health provider, especially if your emotional response is significantly affecting your interpersonal relationships or job performance, or if your children are having chronic or significant problems at home or in school.

The life skills support center is currently located in Suite A of the dental clinic. After hours, call the first aid station, 377-0500.

Base facilities update

Library reopening delayed until Dec. 27

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

McBride library is closed until Dec. 27 for repairs due to Hurricane Katrina.

The closure has been extended due to two factors.

"The library was scheduled to be closed for the holidays Dec. 24-26, and additional time is needed because of the cumbersome process of disassembling and reassembling all the book cases," said Carmen Sneed, 81st Services Division.

The library was up and running just a few days after Katrina, even with substantial damage, and was an escape from reality for many Keesler people to read books, rent videos and use the free internet access.

While the library is closed these services are available:

Federal Emergency Management Agency fax service, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. daily.

Books renewed by phone Monday-Friday. Books may be returned to the outside book drop.

Computer access, test proctoring, normal library circulation and interlibrary loan services aren't available during the closure.

Library access is at the south entrance.

Open base facilities are:

81st Services Division

Arts and crafts, frame and engraving shops — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Auto skills center — 1-7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and non-working Fridays. The car wash is open 24 hours a day.

Child development center — 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Space is available at the center and for the preschool program. For more information, call 377-2211.

Dining facilities — Until further notice, lunch meals in all dining facilities are provided only to military personnel with meal cards, those at Keesler on temporary duty orders and those normally authorized to eat in these facilities.

Civilians, other than those displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina, aren't authorized to use the dining facilities during the lunch meal.

Azalea Dining Facility serves only non-prior service students for all meals.

Family child care — five providers are accepting children in their homes. Children are also being accepted at the mildly-ill family child care home.

For more information, call 377-3189.

People interested in becoming

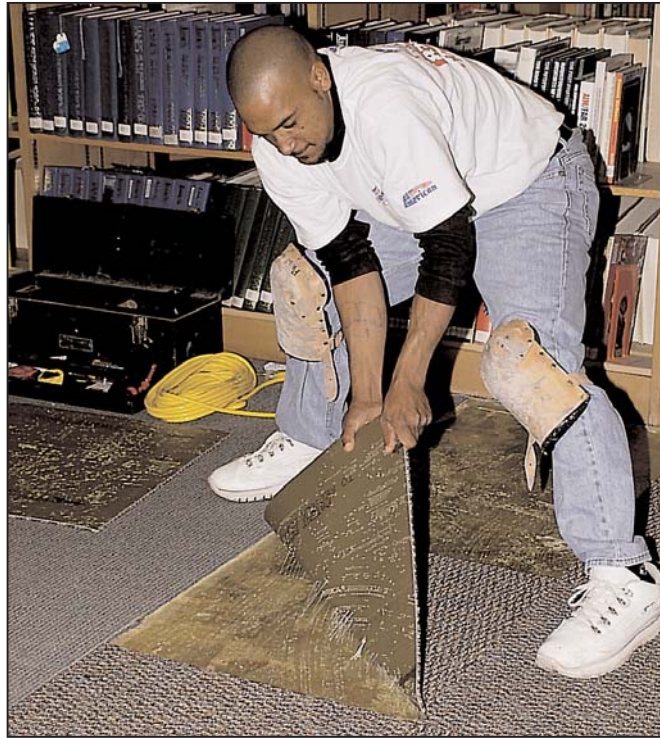


Photo by Kimberly Groue

Paul Overby, All-American Floors contractor from Gulfport, pulls up old carpet in McBride Library Dec. 6. Repairs are taking longer than expected due to having to disassemble and reassemble bookcases.

licensed family child care providers, call the family child care office, 377-5935, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Inns of Keesler — open 24 hours.

Half Time Café — 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Information, ticket and travel office — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays-working Fridays in the customer service area of Vandenberg Community Center.

Vandenberg Community Center — open for senior airmen and below 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 10 a.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday.

Wood shop — 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and non-working Fridays. Planers and drum sanders aren't available at this time.

Youth activities center — 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. workdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. Before- and after-school program is 6-8:30 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m.

for children in kindergarten through grade 6.

Triangle Fitness Center, the marina, Keesler Club, Warrior Lounge and Keesler Community Center are closed.

AAFES

Car care center — 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Service bays close at 3:30 p.m.

For more information, call 432-2404.

Class Six/Shoppette — open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays as a one-stop holiday shop, with toys, clothing, decorations and gift items.

The main exchange, dorm shoppette and medical center exchange are closed indefinitely.

Home furnishings store — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at 220 Ploesti Drive with an entrance on Hercules Street.

Welch Auditorium — movies shown 7 p.m. Friday; 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday.

Banking

BancorpSouth — bank lobby is now open during normal business hours, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday.

The drive-up automatic teller machine is operational 24 hours a day, and the mini-mall ATM is also operating during business hours.

Keesler Federal Credit Union — open during regular banking hours, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, in the trailer located in the credit union's parking lot. ATMs on base are now operational 24 hours a day.

Gates

Oak Park Gate is open 5:30-7:30 a.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday to help alleviate traffic due to the closure of Highway 90. Pass Road, White Avenue and Meadows Drive gates are open around the clock. Judge Sekul Gate is closed.

Housing

The housing office in Chapel One is reassigning homes to families whose base housing is uninhabitable. For a list of available off-base housing, call Mary Krystosek, 377-9741.

The office is the focal point for military housing residents to request portable storage units or labor assistance.

Mini-mall

Alteration shop — noon to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

At Ease embroidery/unit apparel — noon to 7 p.m. daily.

Barber shop — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Beauty shop — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

CZee Zone Internet Café — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Dawg Daze hot dog cart — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Laundry and dry cleaners — noon to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Military clothing sales — 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Seattle's Best Coffee — 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. daily in the mini-mall.

Subway — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

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Moves

Area Defense Counsel — Keesler's office is now in Room 5703, Locker House. The office, an independent office of the Air Force Legal Services Agency, provides representation for investigations, administrative actions and discharges, nonjudicial punishment, courts-martial and other adverse actions. For appointments, call 377-2429.

Contracting — now located in Room 101, old Cody Hall.

Education office — now located in Room 212, old Cody Hall. For assistance, call 377-2323 or 2171.

Family support center — now located on the first floor, old Cody Hall. A student office remains open in the Fishbowl.

In Chapel One, there's an annex with supplies for all ranks and base civilians including clothes, food, baby items and cleaning supplies. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. working Fridays.

Finance — now located on the second floor, Vosler Center. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. working Fridays. For military and travel pay questions, call 377-7272 or 4212.

Legal office — aid is available 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. workdays in Room 246, Levitow Training Support Facility. A claims briefing is 10 a.m. daily, with filing from 8 a.m. to noon. For appointments, call 377-3510. For Katrina claims, call 377-3630. The fax number is 377-3630.

Personal finances — The personal financial management program is now located in Room 119, old Cody Hall. For more information, call 377-8601 or 2179.

Personnel offices — now located in Room 218, old Cody Hall. The civilian personnel office has relocated to the Airman Leadership School building.

Retirees, annuitants — the retiree activities center has moved from Thrower Park to Room 104, old Cody Hall.

Traffic management office — TMO for technical training students in Room 211, Levitow Training Support Facility, is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call 377- 0174, 1263, 7448 or 3147.

The main TMO has returned to Sablich Center, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Phone numbers are inbound personal property, 377-7813; outbound counselors, 377-7815; outbound documentation, 377-2326; non-temporary storage, 377-7810; quality assurance, 377-2969; passenger travel, 377-2600; N&N Travel, 432-5825; TMO officer and administrative staff, 377-7825.

Pets

Veterinary clinic — open 8 a.m. to noon Mondays-Fridays for over-the-counter sales. For appointments to have pets vaccinated or for sick pets, call 377-6883.

Self-help store

The self-help store is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday for facility managers, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for housing residents and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays. For more information, call 377-5397.

'Tis the season for Christmas in the Park

HOLIDAY NOTES



Peyton Eisenach, 7 months, enjoys the Christmas tree lights. Her parents are Jennifer and Capt. David Eisenach, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron.



The VanderKaays' Terri, left, Timothy, 8 months, Chaplain (Capt.) John, Lydia, 3, and Danielle, 5, recreate a nativity scene while carolers sing.



Keesler Airmen from various squadrons come together to sing Christmas carols at the Christmas in the Park Dec. 8 at the marina. The annual event included handcrafted items, rides for children, a Christmas tree

lighting ceremony, and a visit to the children from Santa, who arrived on a fire truck. Hot dogs, chili, cider, hot chocolate and cookies were served.



Twins Justin, left, and Sabrina Cummings, 4, sit on Santa's lap and tell him what they both want for Christmas. Their parents are Marty and Tech. Sgt. Jody Cummings, 81st Training Wing.



Photos by Kimberly Groue

Members of the New Orleans Navy band play Christmas music.



John Rhodes, left, of Biloxi, shows photos of the Back Bay he took to Darlene Caruso, the wife of Capt. Anthony Caruso, 81st Medical Group.

Jingle bell holiday 5-kilometer run — 2:30 p.m. today at Blake Fitness Center. Wear a fun costume and jingle your bells. Prizes awarded to top five men and women and for overall best costume. Refreshments provided. Entry is free.

For more information, call 377-4385.

Youth center Christmas bazaar — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, hosted by the school-age youth program. Craft items also on sale. Refreshments served.

Shopping trip to Mobile, Ala. — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Cost is \$10 per person. Sign up at information, tickets and travel in Vandenberg Community Center by noon Friday.

Holiday camp — 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Dec. 23 for children in kindergarten through grade 6. Registration deadline is today.

For more information, call 377-4116.

Santa calling — Parents who'd like to have their children receive a personal call from Santa between Monday and Dec. 23, contact the youth activities center by Friday.

Christmas Day meal — Keesler commanders, chiefs and first sergeants will serve Christmas meals to Keesler personnel 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 25 at the Pecan and Azalea Dining Facilities. All meal card holders are eligible to participate.

Trip to Bellingrath Gardens in Alabama — 4-8 p.m. Dec. 28. See the historic gardens lit up for the holidays. Cost is \$20 for admission and transportation.

Sign up at ITT by noon Dec. 27.

Vandenberg Community Center — free New Year's party, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 31 for senior airmen and below. Dance, party favors and refreshments.

New Year's Eve bowling party — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 31 at Gaude Lanes. Event isn't just for bowlers. Glow-in-the-dark bowling, music, dancing, prizes, free use of the game machines, refreshments, party favors, non-alcoholic champagne toast and a late-night breakfast.

Alcoholic beverages sold separately. Price for bowlers is \$30 for adults and \$20 for ages 5-17 including bowling shoes.

Non-bowlers pay \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Children ages 11 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

New program promotes job opportunities for vets

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs is promoting job opportunities for those leaving military service with a new program.

"Fulfilling the Commitment — Coming Home to Work" is a new VA initiative focused on veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The initiative, announced in mid-October, taps into existing federal, state and private-sector resources to help the 200,000 service members who separate from active military service each year.

VA Secretary R. James Nicholson cited alarming unemployment rates among young veterans and said the nation owes them assistance as they leave military service. Currently, young veterans face unemployment rates three times the national average.

Almost 15 percent of veterans in the 20-to-24-year-old age group were unemployed during the first three quarters of 2005, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The national rate is closer to 5 percent.

Mr. Nicholson said he's hopeful the effort helps improve veterans' job prospects by edu-

cating employers about veterans' job needs, as well as the attributes veterans bring to the workplace.

"People who just come off active duty, who volunteered, who submitted themselves to all that training and regimen and discipline, are outstanding prospects for employment," he said. "We just need to get them linked up with prospective employers, and that's what this initiative is doing."

In a related move, the VA and General Services Administration signed a formal agreement Nov. 4 expanding GSA's efforts for veterans who own businesses. The agreement commits GSA to put more emphasis on programs for veteran-owned businesses, particularly those with service-related disabilities.

By law, all federal agencies are required to strive to award 3 percent of their contracts, by value, to businesses owned by service-disabled veterans.

The new VA-GSA agreement commits the agencies to co-sponsor eight regional conferences for veteran businesses in the coming year. The Small Business Administration and other federal agencies also participate.

The first regional conference was Nov. 7-10 in Kansas City, Mo.



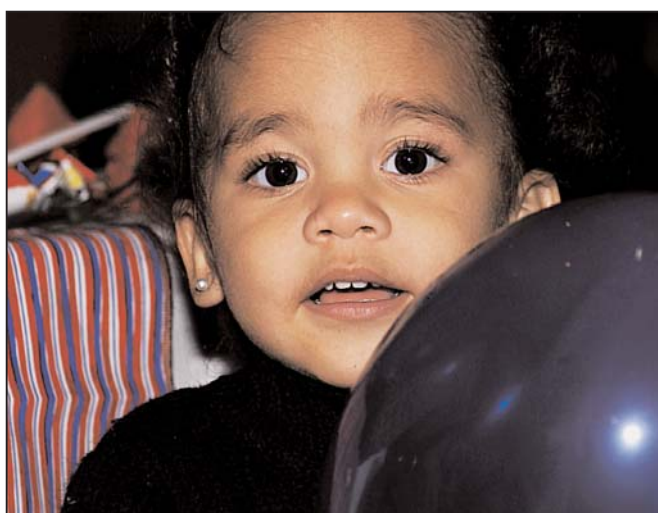
Capt. Lisa Iverson, left, 81st Medical Support Squadron, and 1st Lt. Shandry Goshert, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, compare markings on their hats which showed the number of mortar attacks that struck near them during their deployment to Iraq from April to

September. While deployed, they assisted in air-evacuating more than 2,000 patients. The two medics were among the returning deployed members and their families honored at Friday's "welcome home cookout" at the Vandenberg Community Center.



Chief Master Sgt. Aliquippa Allen, left, 81st Training Wing command chief, talks to Senior Airman Roxanne Hernandez, 81st Mission Support Squadron, about her deployment. Airman Hernandez was in Afghanistan from May to September.

Welcome Home!



One-year-old Madison McKinley clutches a balloon at the cookout. She's the daughter of Patty and Master Sgt. Roderick McKinley, 336th Training Squadron. Her dad was deployed to Afghanistan from May to September.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



LeAnne and Lt. Col. Douglas Mullins, 81st MSS commander, are served cake by Juanita Mullins, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron. The colonel returned from a four-month deployment to Iraq in September. It was his first deployment in 16 years in the Air Force.

Free flights available to wounded

By Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON

Wounded service members and their families can get a free ticket home through Operation Hero Miles.

The Fisher House organization uses more than a million frequent flyer miles per week to distribute free round-trip airline tickets to war-wounded service members, as well as their family members, being treated in military and Veterans Affairs medical facilities across the country.

To date, the program has distributed more than 4,000 tickets, using more than 150 million frequent flyer miles, said Jim Weiskopf, a Fisher House Foundation spokesman.

He said the foundation's general fundraising, including money received from the Combined Federal Campaign, pays airport security fees, taxes and administrative fees on the tickets so there's no charge to the families.

Fisher House, a nonprofit organization that builds homes near and on the grounds of large military and Veterans Affairs medical facilities, receives millions of frequent flyer miles through Operation Hero Miles.

The program took off in 2004 after U.S. Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger, D-Maryland, convinced U.S. airlines to provide free round-trip airline tickets for service members arriving from Iraq and Afghanistan for rest-and-recovery leave. The congressman challenged the airlines to start the program.

The unused frequent flyer miles come from private and corporate donations.

Requests for tickets must originate from a service member and be forwarded to Fisher House by a hospital social work staff member, family assistance center or service casualty office.

For more information, visit <http://www.fisherhouse.org>.



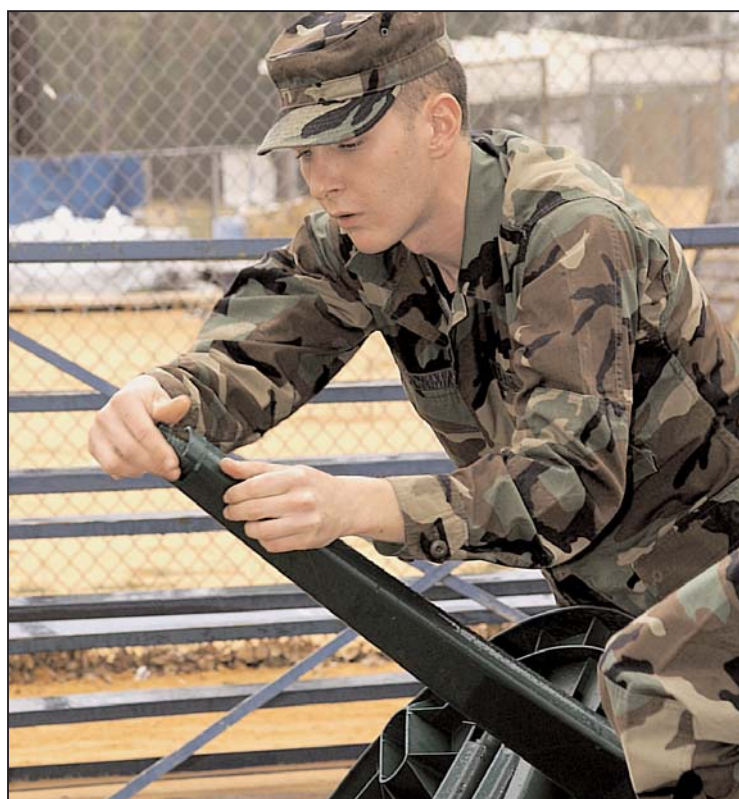
From left, Airman 1st Class Carlos Santiago and Airmen Basic Hasan Zaida and Matthew Saum pack goodie bags for Biloxi children at a Biloxi fire station Friday. The students from the 336th Training Squadron were assisting Operation Win for Kids volunteers from Louisville, Ky.

Photos by Kemberly Groue

Student volunteers boost Katrina recovery efforts



Airman 1st Class Josh Young, 336th TRS, signs his name inside a tent at Rudy Moran Park in D'Iberville. When volunteers come to the site, they're asked to sign the wall to commemorate their visit. Airman Young was part of a Keesler group that delivered hurricane relief supplies Dec. 8.



Airman Basic Kyle Stockman, 336th TRS, assembles a table at Rudy Moran Park in D'Iberville Dec. 8. Many area residents who lost their homes during Hurricane Katrina are living in tents at the park.

KEESLER

NOTES

Unit function

The military personnel flight closes at noon today for a unit function.

For more information, call customer service, 377-1091.

Finance closing

The 81st Comptroller Squadron's finance office in the Vosler Center closes at 2:30 p.m. today for an official function.

For emergencies, call 365-8922.

Vehicle decals

Vehicle decals are available in the visitors center at the White Avenue Gate.

Due to Hurricane Katrina, military, civilian and contractor identification cards may be used to gain access to the base.

For more information, call pass and registration, 377-2143 or 2595.

Speed limit up

The speed limit on Bayview Avenue behind Keesler Medical Center has been increased from 15 to 25 mph, according to safety officials.

Zero overpricing

Submit zero overpricing items on Air Force Form 1046 to 81SUPS/LGSPQ, Attn: Terry Brandenburg, 377-4252, or e-mail to terry.brandenburg@keesler.af.mil.

Supply visits

Supply customer liaison is available to visit organizations for feedback on support.

To schedule a visit, call Terry Brandenburg, 377-4252 or e-mail terry.brandenburg@keesler.af.mil.

Detectors required

Base housing residents are required to sign up for carbon monoxide detectors at the self-help store unless they already have permanently-installed detectors.

One detector is required for single-story units and two for two-story units. Mounting instructions are available.

For more information, call base housing, 377-9741.

SPORTS AND RECREATION



Slugging it out

Alan Belcher, left, 24, of Biloxi, slugs it out with Aaron Lyons of Gulfport as referee Freddie Steinwinder looks on during the final match of Operation Slugfest in Hangar 4 Friday. Keesler hosted Operation Slugfest featuring civilian and military boxers competing for a \$1,000 prize in three different weight categories. Eight of the 24 boxers were from Keesler. The three winners for the evening were: Adam Pellerano from Biloxi (lightweight); Joe Axiotis from Gulfport Seabee Base (middleweight) and Belcher (heavyweight).

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Blake recipient of fitness center award for superior achievement

By Senior Airman
Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

Keesler's fitness centers were awarded the five-star fitness award for superior achievement of excellence.

Col. Bruce Bush, 81st Mission Support Group commander, accepted the award at the Air Force Fitness and Sports awards ceremony at the Athletic Business Conference in Orlando.

The fitness centers received an overall 90 percent in each of five categories: operations, programs, training, facilities and customer service.

"This is the first time that Keesler has been awarded the five-star fitness award," said Coach Tim Cline, fitness center director. "Last year the fitness program was only a two-star."

Many improvements, both external and internal, have been made throughout the year.

Visible changes include new workout and stretching equipment, better field maintenance, upgraded changing and sauna-steam room areas and new security and sound systems.

"Customers are raving about the new equipment and facility renovations. We are very fortunate at Keesler that



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Members work out at the Blake fitness center Nautlius recently.

base leadership understands the importance of our changing fitness culture within the Air Force today," Coach Cline explained.

"Fiscal limitations and aging facilities make it hard to achieve a five-star fitness program.

"However, through planning and perseverance, we'll

continue to strive to equip Airmen with the resources they need to be fit to fight," he added.

Internal changes include upgrade training for fitness technicians, an improved cleaning schedule and an equipment replacement program.

"In August, Keesler hosted a

personal training course through The Cooper Institute for Aerobic Conditioning," Coach Cline explained.

"About nine bases were represented and most all of our fit techs are now personal-trainer qualified. "I'm proud to say we had seven services fitness staff members certified as physical fitness specialists," he said.

The techs are also trained to be physical training leaders, to give cardiopulmonary resuscitation and to use automated external defibrillators.

One area the fitness center has repeatedly had success with is customer service and marketing. "We have display boards, a Web site, customer feedback cards and a great relationship with Wall Studio that helps us to excel in customer service," Coach Cline said.

The Dragon and Triangle fitness centers were heavily damage due to Hurricane Katrina.

"If Katrina arrived two weeks earlier, we would have had a hard time justifying the five-star rating," he explained. "The good news is the Blake and Dragon fitness centers are up and running again and our ball fields are functional.

"We can keep our five-star rating with two facilities running the programs and servicing our fitness and sports community," Coach Cline said.

Other Air Education and Training Command five-star fitness centers include Maxwell, Little Rock and Lackland.

AAFES online store offers outdoor equipment, supplies for nature enthusiasts

AAFES News Service

DALLAS — Shopping for outdoor sports equipment for military nature enthusiasts and their families just got easier with the Exchange Online Store, Outdoor Superstore.

Authorized customers can choose from a broad selection of products and accessories for hunting, camping, archery, freshwater fishing and other outdoor activities.

"The Outdoor Superstore caters to those who enjoy outdoor activities, whether they

prefer boating, camping or fishing," said Angela Borck, AAFES vice president for direct marketing. "Outdoor Superstore is an easy way for authorized customers to find items not otherwise available in the exchange or exchange online store basic assortment."

Outdoor Superstore is available for military service members at the website, <http://www.aafes.com>.

Sign into the exchange online store and click the Outdoor Superstore link.

SCORES AND MORE

Bowling

League sign-ups — for all base leagues. Mondays is Federal league, five bowlers per team; Hospital and Veterans Affairs Employee Association leagues, Tuesday; Wednesday is Mixed League, four bowlers per team; Thursdays is seniors, four bowlers per team, and women's league continues Thursday.

Intramural league meeting — 1:30 p.m. today. Squadrons interested in participating should send a representative.

For more information, call 377-2817.

Fitness centers

Blake Fitness Center — 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Mondays-through working Fridays; 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. non-working Fridays; 8 a.m.

to 7 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Dragon Fitness Center — open Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; closed non-working Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The basketball court area isn't available.

Triangle Fitness Center — closed until further notice.

Golf

The front nine holes of the Bay Breeze Golf Course are open and free for walkers only. It remains open daily until further notice.

Outdoor recreation

Katrina Kantina — a lounge for staff sergeants and above, is in the main marina building. Opens at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. For more information, call 377-3160.

Fam camp — available for mis-

sion-essential active-duty, civilian and contractors, and non-mission essential active-duty who've been displaced. For more information, call 594-0543.

Youth activities center

Open recreation — Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., ages 6 and older.

Torch Club — 5 p.m. today, ages 9-12.

Christmas bazaar — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Craft items on sale. Refreshments served. The event hosted by the school-age youth program.

Holiday camp — 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Dec. 23 for children in kindergarden through grade 6. Registration deadline is today.

DIGEST

HONORS

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Joshua Armstrong, Cory Benson, Joshua Cabaniss, Dane Collins, Matthew Danburg, Jeremy Driscoll, Michael Ford, Jacob Gentry, Michael Gray, Andrea Hunzeker, Michael Hutchings, Daniel Johnsen, Clifton Lambert, Christopher Mahieu, James McPeak, Lannie Neely, Curtis Perkins, Christopher Reynolds, Joshua Russo, Jason Shelor, Jason Shortell, Henry Tep, Sarah Thompson, Troy Wagner, Michael Willis and Christopher Zoglmann; Airmen Matthew Blackwood, Len Carter, Cory Fillis, Matthew Hixson, Michael Lee, Christopher Lewis, Marie Ostro, Guillermo Salcedo, Matthew Sanderson, Sylvia Smith and Jonathan West; Airmen 1st Class Dennis Anderson, Justin Atkins, Eric Braun, Christopher Brewer, David Fabacher, Wesley Cato, Jerrel Conerly, Brandon Cousins, Derrick Dugay, Christopher Flesner, Eric Hanna, David Henderson, Nathan Hines, William Jacob, Juan Johnson, Toby Ketchman, Emily Mayo, Kristopher Miller, Jeffrey Payne, Joseph Rutledge, Andrew Sauer, Brian Schmiedlin, Arthur Serfes, Corey Shaffer, Oni Ung, Matthew Vandiver, Matthew Wickham and Kevin Wolff; Staff Sgt. Joshua Kersker.

334th TRS

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Brett Billenstein, Devin Duran, Catherine Hanson, Kyle Houseman, Shawn Johnson, Cory Lindblom, Daniel Monroe, Brandon Paddock, Stephanie Page, Aaron Portman and Monica Shilman; Airmen Dominic Spaccio and Jenna Parry; Airmen 1st Class Thomas Anderson, Matthew Barbazon, Ross Goodman, Matthew Martin, Melissa Wallis and Kenneth Williams; Senior Airman Jesiah Pollock; Staff Sgts. Benito Lopez, Stephen Nelson, Thomas Parker and Ryan Tripp.

335th TRS

Personnel apprentice course — Airman Basic Angela Zager; Airman 1st Class Mercedes Hill; Tech. Sgt. Buckner Douglas.

Weather training flight — Airmen Basic Janice Anderson, Rory Berg, Nathan Bezner, Andres Castellon, Andrew Farley, Christopher McIntyre, Laura Mickus, Andrew Tolson, Jonathan Vasquez and Tyler Walker; Airmen Renelle Connor and Rachael Wilt; Navy Airman Apprentice Thomas Graves; Airmen 1st Class

Toni Bajkowski, Kyle Blair, Carl Citrine, Kyle Gustavson, Brandon Knight, Matthew Sargent, Zachary Scott, Tiffani Sineath and Charles Sullivan; Navy Airmen Elizabeth Clements and Michael Madore; Marine Cpls. Eric Demeritt and Thomas Moore; Tech. Sgt. Ronald Regina.

336th TRS

Communications and information flight — Airmen Basic Karendeep Bath, Kristen Harrison, Jennifer Sauerwein and Amber Shaffer; Airmen Robert Hilton and Alvaro Osorio; Airmen 1st Class Jonathon Beck, Michael Bennett, James Blomberg, Kevin Boyd, Adam Flood, Chaison Griffin, Daniel Melendez, Benjamin Scheikwardt and Naomi Simmons; Staff Sgt. Kyle Vergara.

Communication-computer systems control training flight — Airman Basic Kevin Glavin; Airmen 1st Class James Buchanan, Danielle Hawker, Johnathan Hughes and William Weide; Senior Airmen Ryan Cray, James Gordon and Derek Perrault; Staff Sgts. Bradley Bolbach and Nicholas Walker; Tech. Sgt. Billie Wolfe.

338th TRS

Ground radio — Airmen Basic Daniel Carr, Mitchell Haas, Scott Hopkins, James Kasper, Keith Martincic and Robert Miller; Airman Justin Henry Airmen 1st Class Paul Amasol, Sven Bickham, Kevin Callender, Emrys Maier, Rome Reiswig and Danny Thomas; Staff Sgt. Gregory Meeuwssen.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Class 06-B — Jan. 23-March 1.

Class 06-C — April 3-May 9.

Class 06-D — May 22-June 27.

Class 06-E — Aug. 1-Sept. 6.

Class 06-F — Sept. 18-Oct. 25.

Class 06-G — Nov. 1-Dec. 12.

First Term Airmen Center

Classes scheduled to resume in January.

Keesler NCO Academy

Current class runs through Friday at Maxwell Air Force Base. No decision has been made about other classes at this time.

Health and wellness center

Stress management — 3 p.m. Wednesday and Dec. 28.

Tobacco cessation — classes resume in January. To register, call 377-5305.

HOLIDAY HOURS

Christmas and New Year's holidays

Editor's note: Hours for these base facilities reflect changes in operation due to the Christmas Day federal holiday, observed Dec. 26, and the New Year's Day federal holiday, observed Jan. 2. Hours of 81st Services Division facilities are subject to change without notice. Any Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities not listed are closed.

Inns of Keesler — open 24 hours.

Car wash — open 24 hours.

Fam camp — open 24 hours.

Mini-mart — open 24 hours.

Magnolia Dining Facility — 6-8 a.m. weekdays, 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. down Fridays, weekends and holidays; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 5-6:30 p.m.

Pecan Dining Facility — 5:30-7:30 a.m. weekdays, 7:30-9 a.m. down Fridays, weekends and holidays; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 5-6:30 p.m.

Azalea Dining Facility — closed Dec. 22-Jan. 2; open 6-7:30 p.m. Jan. 3.

Live Oak Dining Facility — closed Dec. 22-Jan. 4.

Blake Fitness Center — 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Dec. 24 and

Please see **Digest**, Page 28

DINING HALL MENUS

Today

Lunch — orange-spiced pork chops, braised liver with onions, fried fish, rissole potatoes, rice, gravy, broccoli, peas and carrots, wax beans, fruit salad, potato salad, chicken and wild rice soup, chili buffalo wings and cream of broccoli soup.

Dinner — baked chicken, pepper steak, pasta primavera, mashed potatoes, rice, gravy, mixed vegetables, fried okra, green beans, potato salad, fruit salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, buffalo wings and roast beef subs.

Friday

Lunch — seafood newburg, bean and corn pie, roast turkey, cornbread, franconia potatoes, pea and pepper rice, gravy, corn on the cob, stewed tomatoes, mustard greens, pasta salad, three-bean salad, clam chowder, vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork and burritos.

Dinner — corned beef, cornbread, pineapple chicken, Yankee pot roast, potato wedges, simmered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, carrots, blackeyed peas, three-bean salad, clam chowder, garden vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

Saturday

Lunch — baked chicken, Swedish meatballs, creole shrimp, baked potatoes, rice, gravy, creamed corn, asparagus, steamed squash, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, country bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and chicken nuggets.

Dinner — baked fish, Hungarian goulash, barbecue chicken, potatoes, rice, gravy, stir-fry vegetables, baked beans, creamed corn, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, country bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and chicken nuggets.

Sunday

Lunch — oven-fried fish, Cantonese spare ribs, grilled mustard chicken breast, baked macaroni and cheese, noodles, gravy, peas, sweet potatoes, broccoli combo, country style tomato salad, jellied spring salad, hearty vegetable soup, Italian wedding soup, chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Dinner — stir-fry beef with broccoli, turkey nuggets, loin strip steak, mushroom and onion sauce, baked potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, corn on the cob, green beans, jellied spring salad, tomato salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Monday

Lunch — beef pot roast, baked stuffed fish, roast pork loin, oven-brown potatoes, rice, gravy, califlower combo, succotash, green beans, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone, chili with beans, Polish sausage and steak and cheese subs.

Dinner — chili macaroni, cornbread, beef canelloni, fried chicken, cottage fries, mashed potatoes, gravy, steamed squash, glazed carrots, peas, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone soup, chili with beans, grilled sausage and steak and cheese subs.

Tuesday

Lunch — teriyaki chicken, veal parmesan, salmon cakes, garlic toast, filipino rice, parsley buttered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, succotash, mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail salad, spinach salad, bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup, white chicken chili, barbecue beef sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Dinner — country captain chicken, meatloaf, turkey a la king, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, garlic toast, harvard beets, mustard greens, okra tomato gumbo, fruit cocktail salad, spinach salad, bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup, white chicken chili, barbeque beef sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Wednesday

Lunch — lasagna, spaghetti with meat sauce, chicken cacciatore, noodles, baked potatoes, baked beans, green beans, simmered squash, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and Monte Cristo sandwich.

Dinner — lemon-herb chicken, barbecue ribs, jalapeno cornbread, stuffed pork chops, scalloped potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, Mexican corn, tempura vegetables, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and Monte Cristo sandwich.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass

Larcher Chapel10 a.m.

Daily Mass

Larcher Chapel.....11:15 a.m.

Protestant

Sunday worship

Larcher Chapel traditional service.....8:30 a.m.

Fishbowl student contemporary service.....10 a.m.

Larcher Chapel praise and worship service11:30 a.m.

Larcher Chapel gospel service.....1 p.m.

Islamic

Building 2003 — for international students, temporary duty and permanent party; prayer five times daily; Salaat ul-Jumma congregational prayer, noon Friday.

For more information, call 377-2520 or 0327.

Latter-Day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints — student group service, 3 p.m. Sundays, Fishbowl. Family home evenings, 7 p.m. Mondays, Fishbowl Student Center.

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Dec. 26-31 and Jan. 2; closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
Marina — closed until further notice.
Outdoor recreation — closed Dec. 22-26, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1-2.
Vandenberg Community Center and Half Time Café — 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Dec. 22-23; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 24 and Dec. 26-30; 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 31 and noon to 6 p.m. Jan. 1-2; closed Dec. 25.
Arts and crafts center — closed until further notice.
Auto hobby shop — closed Dec. 22-Jan. 3.
Keesler Club — closed until further notice.
Enlisted lounge — closed until further notice.
Katrina Kantina — closed Wednesday through Jan. 2.
Bay Breeze Golf Course — open daily for free play.
Dragon Fitness Center — closed Monday through Jan. 2.
Triangle Fitness Center — closed until further notice.
Information, ticket and travel office — closed Tuesday-Jan. 2.
Keesler Community Center — closed until further notice.
Youth activities center — closed 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 19-22; closed Dec. 23-Jan. 2.
Child development center — closed Dec. 23-26 and Dec. 30-Jan. 2.
Family child care — closed Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.
Gaudé Lanes — 5-10 p.m. Dec. 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30; 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 31, closed Dec. 24-27 and Jan. 1-2.
McBride Library — noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 21-23 and Dec. 27-30; closed Dec. 24-26 and 31, Jan. 1-2.
Veterinary clinic — closed Dec. 23, 26 and 30, Jan. 2.
Triangle mini-mall — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24, closed Dec. 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 1.
Class Six/Four Seasons — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24, closed Dec. 25, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 31, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 1.
Furniture store — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31; closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
Service station — store 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31, closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1; shop 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31, closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1; gas lanes 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31, closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
Military clothing sales — closed.
Mobile units — closed.
Dawg Daze Hot Dogs — closed.
Subway — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 24 and Jan. 1; closed Dec. 25.
Seattle's Best Coffee — closed.
Pizza shop — closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1.
CyberZone — 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 24, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 31; closed Dec. 24 and Jan. 1.
General Nutrition Center — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31; closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
Triangle barber shop — noon to 3 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31; closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
Triangle beauty shop — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 24, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 31, closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
Triangle laundry/cleaners — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 24, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 31, closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
At Ease Embroidery — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31; closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
Military Rent-All — closed Thursday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday.
Enterprise Car Rental — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 31, closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

PROMOTIONS

2005 Air Force Personnel Center boards

Through Friday — major line, CHAP, JAG, BSC, MSC.

TRANSITIONS

Web sites

Defense Manpower Data Center — <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dors> or <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/tbb>.

Air Force Blue to Corporate Gray — <http://www.blue.togray.com>.

Air Force Federal Employment Resume and Information — <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/resweb>.

Civilian job certification and licensing requirements for military personnel and veterans — <http://www.dol.gov/dol/vets>.

Department of Veterans Affairs — <http://www.vba.va.gov/efif/index.htm>; for members returning from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Southern Region Military and Civilian Job Fair — <http://www.mesc.state.ms.us/jobfair>.

New military spouse career center — <http://www.military.com/spouse>. Extensive job board including jobs from public and private sectors. For more information, call Vince Patton, 703-269-0154, or e-mail at vince@militaryadvantage.com.

America's Job Bank — <http://www.ajb.dni.us>.

Computer use

Government computers — commanders may authorize their use for preparation of personal resumes by people separating or retiring from the service on an "as available" basis as long as use doesn't adversely affect the mission.

Transition employment opportunities public folder — go to e-mail "public folders" and click on "transition employment opportunities" for job opportunities for active duty and family members. For more information, call 377-8592 or 8593.

MEETINGS

Editor's note: To list time, place and point of contact for organization meetings, call 377-3837 or e-mail KN@keesler.af.mil.

At Eze Toastmasters Club — noon Tuesdays, Building 1101 conference room. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Don Seaton, 377-5958, or Fred Blache, 377-1048, or visit <http://www.toastmasters.org>.

Native American Heritage Committee — for more information, call R.I. Whiteside, 863-0479, or Capt. Elizabeth Taillon, 377-6242.

MISCELLANEOUS

Movies

Editor's note: Movies are shown at Welch Auditorium. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children for regular features, and \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children for matinees. For a recorded message about current features, call 377-6627.

Friday — 7 p.m., Prime (PG-13).

Saturday — 2 p.m., Doom (R); 7 p.m., The Weatherman (R).

Sunday — 2 p.m., Dreamer: Inspired by a True Story (PG).

SHUTTLE BUS SCHEDULE

6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:00	:30 332nd TRS, Building 6955
:01	:31 338th TRS, Building 6965
:02	:32 Welch Auditorium
:04	:34 Smith Manor
:07	:37 Thomson Hall
:08	:38 Supply
:09	:39 Shoppette
:10	:40 Shaw House
:11	:41 Main exchange
:12	:42 McBride Library
:13	:43 Medical center, Tyer House
:14	:44 Sablich Center
:15	:45 Dental clinic
:16	:46 Allee and Wolfe Halls
:17	:47 Base operations
:18	:48 Hangar 4

Technical training route 5:10-5:37 a.m. weekdays

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:10	Building 5025
:12	Building 5022
:14	Shaw House
:16	Muse Manor
:18	Tyer House
:20	TLQ east side 2000 block
:21	TLQ east side of Locker House
:25	332nd TRS
:28	Welch Auditorium
:33	Thomson/Dolan/Cody Halls
:34	McClellan Hall
:36	Allee/Wolfe Halls
:37	Stennis Hall/Weather

Prior-service students lodged off-base

Call 377-2432 for transportation needs. Traffic in the local area impacts base taxi times.

Editor's note: Duty passengers have priority over "space available" riders. Schedule may be impacted by increased official operations or severe weather. Those who are physically challenged or have excess baggage, call 377-2432 for the base taxi. For more information, call 377-2430.